

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Driscoll-Naselle 21/2 Mile (Powerline Rd.) Access Road Maintenance Project

PP&A No.: 3605

Project Manager: Rick Ross, TELF-TPP-3

Location: Wahkiakum County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct maintenance activities along powerline road that leads to the Driscoll-Naselle transmission line corridor in the 21/2 mile. Activities include installation of three 18" cross drain ditch culverts, one water bar, road surface contouring, and placement of crushed rock road surface.

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Driscoll-Naselle No. 1	Access to 21/2	9N	7W	1	Private Timber

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Greg Tippetts

Greg Tippetts EPR-Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 2, 2017

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

All work would be done on an existing transmission line access road that crosses privately-owned rural, residential, and forested use lands.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA has determined that the proposed work would not result in changes in the character or use of historic properties. The work will occur within the existing prism of the road.</p> <p>In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) will be contacted.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Storm-water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur within an existing transmission line access road. No vegetation management activities are planned for this project.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur within an existing transmission line access road not considered to be wildlife habitat. No mapped special-status species or designated habitats are present within the project area. A no effect determination addressing ESA species and critical habitat was completed for the project.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Appropriate storm-water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding areas from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. A no effect determination addressing ESA aquatic species and essential fish habitat was completed for the project.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands occur at or within the area of influence of the work sites.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Project activities are not likely to potentially impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. All spills and/or any other inadvertent circumstances or actions that may potentially impact groundwater or aquifers would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation: The project locations are confined to an existing transmission line access road. Project locations do not include any specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities would not alter or effect visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance would be limited to general construction equipment activities, would be for a short duration, and would occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known. Completion of this project would increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project is located entirely on private land. The property owner has been involved in project planning and has requested BPA perform this activity to help alleviate drainage issues effecting his property. The property owner will be notified several weeks in advance once the project is approved.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Greg Tippetts
Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: February 2, 2017